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Abstract of the paper of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

1. In the region of Asia and the Pacific, the development of space technology has evolved to become more application-driven and user-oriented. In the past two decades, the progress in space technology and its various applications has been very significant and impressive, making Asia and the Pacific one of the more dynamic areas in the field of space technology and development. It is this dynamism that motivated the launching of the Regional Space Applications Programme for Sustainable Development during the first Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in September 1994. Under the auspices of the Regional Space Applications Programme, numerous activities were initiated that contributed to raising the status of the region in using space technology in support of sustainable development. With the successful implementation of the Regional Space Applications Programme, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) now recognizes the need to prepare the region further for expanded and effective practical uses of space technologies for the next millennium and to strengthen promotional efforts at both the regional and national levels. In view of this, ESCAP, in cooperation with the Government of India, is organizing the second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in New Delhi from 15 to 20 November 1999, in support of the region's continued efforts to enhance regional cooperation in space technology and development. Not only will the second Ministerial Conference build upon the successes attained through the Regional Space Applications Programme, but it will also attempt to derive benefits from lessons offered by experiences and pitfalls of the past. Since it is being held a few months after the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), the second Ministerial Conference will also be able to translate the recommendations at the global level into the regional arena.

2. The paper will review the projects and activities under the Regional Space Applications Programme that contributed to the current dynamism in space technology development and applications in the region. It will also present the preparations for the second Ministerial Conference, which is expected to sustain the momentum achieved through the implementation of the Regional Space Applications Programme.

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